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Request for Information Regarding the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

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General Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the implementation of a bill that has potential to improve mental health care in the United States.

While the bill has good intentions Depending on how it is implemented this bill could easily be more of a benefit for treatment providers and gold mine for pharmaceutical interests and at the expense of those it is supposed to serve.

There needs to be some very effective regulation of the types of services reimbursed, specifically those treatments conclusively shown in valid research to have low risk of harm and higher likelihood than chance of benefitting clientele. A "gold standard" for this is the American Psychological Association's Task Force on Empirically Validated Treatments, which used valid criteria for research methodology (see <http://www.apa.org/divisions/div12/est/newrpt.pdf>). This stands in contrast to pseudo-science* "research" which is all too popular among mental health treatment providers but harmful or ineffective beyond "snake oil" levels.

Please don't allow health care dollars to be mispent on charisma and snake oil at

the expense of the clientele they are supposed to serve.

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*For example, see Lilienfeld, S. et al (2004). Science and pseudoscience in clinical psychology. New York: Guilford.